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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/338,286 06/22/99 SNOW

R 7722-298US

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QM12/1122

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EXAMINER

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CLAYTON, S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3713

DATE MAILED:

11/22/00

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/338,286

Applicant(s)

RICHARD SNOW ET AL.

Examiner

S Clayton

Group Art Unit

3713



☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Jun 22, 1999

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☒ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

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DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. This application has been filed with informal drawings which are acceptable for examination purposes only. Formal drawings will be required when the application is allowed.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 2-5 and 7-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claims 3, 5, 8 and 10, Applicant states "at least one of player history...". This language is vague and confusing. Clarification is necessary.

Regarding claims 4, 5, 9 and 10, Applicant states "at least one of player display and animation...". This language is vague and confusing. Clarification is necessary.

Regarding claims 2, 7 and 10, Applicant states "consisting of one of PCI, ISA, ...". This language is vague and confusing. Clarification is necessary. In addition, instead of using

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abbreviations, it is suggested that Applicant needs to write out what PCI, ISA, VME and AGP actually Bus stands for, i.e., Protocol Control Information, etc.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Acres et al. '961.

Regarding claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 8 Acres et al. '961 discloses a method for operating networked gaming devices. The plurality of gaming devices such as slot machines are interconnected via a computer network to a central computer provides the applications of ability to extract accounting data from the individual gaming devices, to track and identify players as well as collect track game information and to operate bonus promotions and progressive jackpots. Acres et al. '961 also discloses a game subsystem for controlling game function as well as a game subsystem for controlling accounting, see FIGS 2-34. Regarding claims 2 and 7, Acres et al. '961 discloses microcontrollers 248A-248H, which communicate with the floor controller through *ISA bus interface* logic 247 over buses 249A and 249B, see 19:20-31 and FIG 12. Acres et al. '961 is deemed to meet the claims as broadly claimed in the instant application.

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

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A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371© of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

7. Claims 4, 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Acres et al. '284.

Regarding claims 4, 9 and 10, Acres et al. '284 discloses all the claimed invention as set forth in claims 1-3, 5 and 6-8 of the instant application. Acres et al. '284 also provides for notification with audio and visual effects which entertained and stimulated the players and which progressively increases in intensity in proportion to the value of the bonus and jackpot, see 2:20-30. Acres et al. '284 is deemed to meet the claims as broadly claimed in the instant application.

Citation of Pertinent Art

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Lucero et al. '709 discloses a cash accounting and surveillance system for games, whereby operation of a number of player operated gaming devices may be monitored for purposes of detecting abnormal operation and/or cheating and for providing automatic accounting information for record keeping and pilferage detection purposes.

Thacher et al. '725 discloses an electronic tournament system comprising a plurality of games of skill including apparatus for generating signals representative of the scores resulting from the games, apparatus for displaying the scores locally at the games, computer apparatus for

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storing player identification data signals and player game credit signals associated with selected player identification data signals, a player identifier reader associated with each of the games for receiving a player identifier, reading the identifier, forwarding a credit enquiry signal associated with the signal identifying the player resulting from reading the identifier to the latter computer, for receiving a credit verification or denial signal from the latter computer and for enabling operation of the game in the event of receiving the credit verification signal.

Tillery et al. '155 discloses a networked games, which game, player and accounting information.

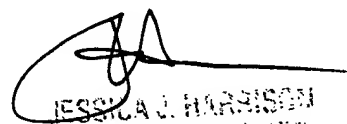
Franchi '533 discloses a casino operating system, which controls the flow of funds and monitoring gambling activities in a casino or a gaming establishment utilizing a network of computers, including a central computer and individual game computers. Each player receives an encoded betting card from the cashier. At the games, each player position is equipped with a control panel including a card reader into which the betting card is inserted. The control panel also includes an electronic screen and keyboard. From the control panel, the player may place a bet and perform all options available to the player in the particular game. The system records the hands dealt to each player and the winner, and credits or debits the player's betting card accordingly.


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Conclusion

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to S Clayton whose telephone number is (703) 305-0124. The examiner can normally be reached Monday-Friday from 9:30am-6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's primary can be reached at (703) 308-2217.


JESSICA J. HARRISON
PRIMARY EXAMINER


SC
11-15-00

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

ATTACHMENT TO AND MODIFICATION OF **NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY (PTO-37)** **(November, 2000)**

NO EXTENSIONS OF TIME ARE PERMITTED TO FILE CORRECTED OR FORMAL DRAWINGS, OR A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION, notwithstanding any indication to the contrary in the attached Notice of Allowability (PTO-37).

If the following language appears on the attached Notice of Allowability, the portion lined through below is of no force and effect and is to be ignored¹:

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE to comply with the requirements noted below is set to EXPIRE **THREE MONTHS** FROM THE "DATE MAILED" of this Office action. Failure to comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. ~~Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).~~

Similar language appearing in any attachments to the Notice of Allowability, such as in an Examiner's Amendment/Comment or in a Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948, is also to be ignored.

¹ The language which is crossed out is contrary to amended 37 CFR 1.85(c) and 1.136. See "Changes to Implement the Patent Business Goals", 65 Fed. Reg. 54603, 54629, 54641, 54670, 54674 (September 8, 2000), 1238 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 77, 99, 110, 135, 139 (September 19, 2000).